

Throughout the years she served Jack and me on behalf of the men and women of the North Channel area of Houston, Texas, I admired Barbara for her commitment to public service. When Jack represented the North Channel area in Congress in the early 1980s, and I represented the same area in the Texas State Senate, Barbara was the "go to" person in Jack's district office—the one we all contacted for requests, appointments and information. As Jack's district coordinator, Barbara was the best at what she did—keeping the Congressman and his staff on schedule and serving his constituents, often satisfying impossible requests.

But Barbara did far more as Jack's district coordinator.

Barbara served as a "mother" for the 8th Congressional District of Texas. She served as a "mother" to Jack's congressional staffs both in Houston and Washington, DC—offering support and good humor to everyone who served him. I don't think Barbara would object if I suggested that much of that good humor was somewhat ribald or slightly earthy.

Barbara continues to wage a courageous battle against melanoma, and in characteristic fashion, often uses humor to comfort everyone from her doctors to her family. Jack and I continue to marvel at her strength and endurance—as do her many friends, her family members and the staff at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Over the last 25 years, Barbara has provided all of us with a shining example of public service and a lesson in how service should be delivered. She never sought recognition for her work, but she earned the admiration of all who were privileged to work alongside her and those she helped through the years. I would ask that you and all of my colleagues remember Barbara in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Speaker, if not a Texas native, Barbara certainly is a Texas original—a Long Island native who found her home in Houston, Texas, and who served her community and her fellow citizens with dedication and distinction. Texans have always welcomed such men and women to our state and offered them our love and respect. Texas and our Nation are better as a result of Barbara's service, and I appreciate this opportunity to recognize this unique Texas woman.

#### TRIBUTE TO SEYMORE SAILES

#### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Seymore Sailes, a lifelong resident of Manatee County whose sudden passing last week is a tremendous loss to the Palmetto community.

Mr. Sailes was the first African American insurance agent to work in a white-owned agency in the State of Florida. He went on to open his own insurance and bail bonding business, which is now a fixture in the Palmetto community.

However, to the people of Palmetto, Mr. Sailes is better known for his work outside the office. Seymore dedicated his life to bettering his community and improving opportunities for young people. Where there was a need,

Seymore was hard at work, determined to meet that need.

Nowhere is the fruit of his tireless labor more evident than at the Palmetto Youth Center, where Mr. Sailes mentored kids and coached football. Seymore was always convincing local business leaders to support the center's young people by sponsoring events, financing educational scholarships or supporting the center's infrastructure expansion. Thanks to Mr. Sailes and his leadership, Palmetto Youth Center has been able to reach many more young people with a variety of programs and activities, as well as connecting with the entire community through the center's annual Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., banquet and parade.

Outside of the Palmetto Youth Center, Seymore was also active in his church, serving as the chairman of the deacon board at St. John's First Baptist Institutional Church. His many civic activities and his determination in bringing people together to improve the community earned Mr. Sailes numerous awards, as well as the respect and appreciation of the Palmetto community.

Seymore's passing leaves a void in our community's leadership, as well as in our hearts. I would like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Sailes for his service and my deepest sympathy to his family for their loss.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF HARRY LESTER

#### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend Harry Lester on the occasion of his retirement from the United Steel Workers of America, USWA. Harry and I have fought and won many battles together over the past 50 years on behalf of working men and women. He is an honorable, decent, and hard-working man and I am proud to call him my friend.

As Director of District 2, representing steel workers in Michigan and Wisconsin since its establishment in 1995, Harry has shown commendable leadership and commitment to the community and to our nation's working families. Harry first became active in the Steel Workers at Local 2659 at McLouth Steel in Trenton, Michigan in 1954. In 1969, he was appointed to USWA staff where he later negotiated one of the first cooperative partnerships in the country between Dow Chemical, National Standard, Quanex, and the Detroit Steel Company. Harry was promoted to serve as the director of USWA District 29 from 1981 to 1995 before ascending to the position of Director of the newly formed District 2.

Harry has been very active in the local community throughout his career and currently serves on the board of several education, labor, political and civic organizations. His activities include participation in organizations such as the AFL-CIO, United Foundation, United Way of Michigan, National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, Economic Alliance of Michigan, Greater Detroit Area Health Council and the Michigan Economic and Environmental Roundtable. Harry has proven to be an effective leader in efforts to protect our envi-

ronment and protecting the rights of working men and women across America.

As Harry enters his retirement years, I would like to extend my best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable journey. I would like to thank him for all of his hard work and dedication to the United Steel Workers of America and to labor efforts over the years. His commitment to improving the quality of life for working families has been an inspiration to me and to everyone that he has touched in his many years of service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Harry Lester for his many years of dedicated public service on behalf of both the United Steel Workers of America and the community at large. His heartfelt dedication to the workers of this Nation will not be forgotten.

#### PRESIDENT BUSH'S FY2007 BUDGET

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the priorities set forth in the President's Budget which hides the true costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, finances tax cuts on the backs of the poor, slashes Medicare and Medicaid, and favors special interests over the interests of the American people.

Before the State of the Union address, I along with several other Members of Congress, sent President Bush a letter asking him to make sure that he tells the American people the truth. During the State of Union, President Bush said that his budget would cut the deficit in half by 2009. Unfortunately, it seems that the President did not read our letter.

The President's budget is misleading in the projected costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2001, approximately \$370 billion has been provided to finance the wars and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than \$260 billion of that amount has been funneled into Iraq. In his budget, the President has set aside \$50 billion in 2007 for Iraq and Afghanistan, but has not allotted any money beyond 2007. While I welcome a swift end to the war in Iraq, the assumption that this country will not spend a dime in Iraq and Afghanistan beyond 2007 is farfetched.

The President's budget is misleading in not including the 10 year costs of repairing the Alternative Minimum Tax. While the President has included a 1-year provision to mitigate the AMT's impact on the middle class, it omits the cost of the full repair to the AMT. This cost is projected to increase the deficit by \$844 billion over the next 10 years.

Besides being disingenuous, this budget exacts a financial toll on our nation's disadvantaged citizens while helping to finance billions of dollars in tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans. The cost to make the President's tax cuts permanent is \$1.35 trillion over the next decade. At the same time, the President's budget cuts significant social programs, including cuts in job training, education, food stamps, and environmental protection efforts.

Most alarmingly, this budget would allow the Federal Government to turn its back on those Americans who struggle to maintain their